Author: Robert Batteese at Ag&Food
Date: 9/7/99 1:09 PM
Normal
TO: chaag@plumcreek.com at Internet, Mail List - #Pesticides
Subject: Re[4]: Ch 29
---------- Message Contents

Carl:

We have reviewed your detailed questions and reached a new interpretation. We now answer them simply by saying that use of hoses, pump and tank that have never contacted pesticide to take on clean water is not considered a mixing and loading operation. Therefore, Section 1 does not apply to the operations you have described and the rule does not prohibit anyone from parking a vehicle containing both the mix and nurse (clean water) within 50 feet of the water body.

We are concerned about having the mix tank on the same vehicle because of past incidents where a nurse tank was filled to overflowing and previously spilled concentrates or tank mixes were flushed into the water body. We may want to address this possibility at some future time when we revisit the rule.

We are also concerned about how the nurse tank is plumbed to the mix tank and the hopefully remote chance for back siphoning. Based on the minimal cost for an antisiphon device, we would still recommend one be attached to all suction lines just as an added precaution.

Please let me know if you still have questions about this rule that was adopted to primarily deal with sloppy practices by a few farmers.

Bob

_____ Reply Separator _____
Subject: Re: Re[2]: Ch 29
Author: chaag@plumcreek.com at Internet
Date: 9/3/99 9:07 AM

Hi Bob,

I still have some questions re Ch 29.

Our mix trucks / trailers are set up with one 1,500 - 2,500 gallon clean water tank and one or more 300 - 500 gallon mix tanks. There is an on-board pump that pumps clean water only. There is another on-board pump that pumps pesticide mix only. There is usually a third pump that pumps pesticide concentrates and surfactants only.

Under 1.B, can we assume that if there is an air pocket between the top of the water in the water tank and the end of the hose that fills the tank (air brake?) that we meet this requirement, or do we still need an actual anti-siphon device installed in the hose? Would an anti-siphon device, installed between the clean water tank and the pump that pumps water into the mix tank satisfy this requirement?

Under 1.A, could you clarify something else for me? We interpreted 1.A (No person shall mix or load any pesticides or fill a sprayer or mix tank within

fifty (50) feet from the high water mark of any surface waters of the State as defined in 38M.R.S.A. Section 361-A(7)) to mean that we can not 1) add water to any tank that has had pesticides in it, such as a mix tank or spray tank (ie helicopter spray tank) or 2) load pesticides or mix pesticides within 50' of water. We also interpreted 1.A to mean that we *can* fill a clean water tank on either a nurse truck *or* a mix truck, using a water-only pump, from a location closer than 50' to water.

Do I correctly understand from your comments below that you interpret / intend 1.A to mean that we have to park our mix truck >50 feet from water at all times to fill the clean water tank on the mix truck?

If so, having to park our trucks >50 feet from water is not something I envisioned when I offered you my comments on Chapter 29. I assumed that the intent of 1.A was to prevent the filling of the actual spray tank or mix tank directly from the source of water, thereby minimizing the possibility of water contamination. For the last 10 years or so, our mix trucks have been set up so that we fill the clean water tank using a pump mounted on the truck bed, rather than by using a portable pump. This allows our contractors to minimize the length of time it takes to fill up by using a larger capacity, (but heavier) pump to pump clean water.

If the intent of 1.A is to prevent contamination of surface waters, that intent is met using a system as I have described above. Requiring us to go back to portable pumps and parking the truck >50 feet from water would present us with a difficult problem, adding unnecessary time to the already time consuming task of taking on water without adding a significant measure of relative safety.

Looking forward to your comments.

Carl

>>> Robert Batteese <Robert.Batteese@state.me.us> 09/02/99 04:39PM >>>

Carl,

I assume you know what an antisiphoning device is so you are having the same problem we have had with the words " pesticide pumping systems." Initially, we just called them pumping systems and people questioned if we were including fire and even domestic water pumps. We then added the word pesticide to exclude them but unintentionally confused the issue.

Under 1.B, no person shall use any pump, suction line or discharge hose that has had contact with a pesticide concentrate or mixture to draw liquid from any surface waters. However, a virgin pump system (pump, suction and hose) may be placed at the water's edge to pump into either a mix or sprayer tank parked 51 feet from the water body. The antisiphoning device (also called check valve or backflow preventer) must be installed just in case the pump fails and there is no air brake between the end of the hose and the liquid in the tank.

A virgin nurse truck that only carries clean water and does not carry any pesticide containers may be parked at the water's edge for filling by a virgin pumping system. Although it may not be clear, there have been several discussions at our inspector training sessions and they should be following the interpretation that a virgin pumping system is not a pesticide pumping system. Thus the installation of an antisiponing device on the virgin pump's suction line would not be

required in this instance.

Hope this explanation addresses you concern. If not, let me know.

Bob

---------- Reply Separator ----------

Subject: Re: Ch 29
Author: chaag@plumcreek.com at Internet
Date: 9/1/99 4:51 PM

Bob,

Could you give some examples how we could comply with Chapter 29, Section 1.C.?

Carl

Section 1. Protecting Waters of the State During Pesticide Mixing and Loading Operations

C. All pesticide pumping systems that come in contact with any surface waters shall be equipped with an anti-siphoning device.